

Message Text

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USLO PEKING

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TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, HU

SUBJ: HUNGARIAN MEDIA REACTION TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S
PEKING VISIT.

1. HUNGARIAN MEDIA COVERAGE OF SECRETARY'S PEKING VISIT
HAS CONSISTED OF SHORT, FACTUAL NEWS ITEMS, LACK OF
OFFICIAL COMMENTARY, REPRINT OF PRAVDA'S OCTOBER 21
COMMENTARY AND A COLUMN FROM MAGYAR NEMZET'S WASHINGTON
CORRESPONDENT TOMAS ZALA, WHICH, ALTHOUGH NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF
OFFICIAL VIEWS, PRESENTS FOR HUNGARIAN READERS A BALANCED
ANALYSIS FAVORABLE TO THE U.S. POSITION.

2. HSWP DAILY NEPSZABADSAG, SPOKESMAN FOR THE OFFICIAL
PARTY LINE, HAS MAINLY CONFINED ITSELF, ALONG WITH OTHER
BUDAPEST DAILIES TO BRIEF, FACTUAL DAILY REPORTS OF
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SECRETARY'S ACTIVITIES IN PEKING.

3. IN OCTOBER 22 EDITION A PRAVDA ARTICLE FROM OCTOBER 21 IS REPRINTED, IN WHICH PRC ACCUSED OF TRYING TO INFLUENCE USG TO QUOTE REMAIN THE POLICEMAN OF THE WORKD IN ASIA UNQUOTE. PRC ALSO ACCUSED OF USING KISSINGER VISIT FOR ITS ANTI-SOVIET AND ANTI-DETENTE PURPOSE BY SUGGESTING THAT PRC AND USG VIEWS IDENTICAL ON MANY PROBLEMS.

4. ZALA ARTICLE IN MAGYAR NEMZET IS BY FAR THE MOST EXTENSIVE AND IS BASED ON U.S. NEWS SOURCES. ZALA'S MAIN POINT IS THAT SECRETARY HAS BEEN CAREFUL TO AVOID GIVING APPEARANCE OF ANTI-SOVIET CHARACTER TO MEETINGS AND TO PROTECT GAINS IN U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS. ZALA PRAISES SECRETARY FOR USING TACT AND DIPLOMACY WITH CHINESE WITHOUT MISLEADING WORLD PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT SIGNIFICANCE AND INTENTIONS OF MEETINGS. ARTICLE CONTAINS REALISTIC ASSESSMENT OF PRESENT STATUS OF U.S.-CHINESE RELATIONS AND POINTS OUT THAT PRINCIPAL PURPOSES OF SECRETARY'S TRIP WERE TO REVIEW RELATIONS AND TO PREPARE PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT TO PEIPKING.

5. COMMENT: ZALA'S ARTICLE SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS OFFICIAL HUNGARIAN VIEW. NEPSZABADSAG HANDLING OF ISSUE REFLECTS MORE CLOSELY VIEWS OF HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS AMONG WHOM THERE UNDOUBTEDLY EXISTS SOME CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE "ANTI-SOVIET" CONSEQUENCES OF THE SECRETARY'S AND THE PRESIDENT'S VISITS TO CHINA. GIVEN THE LATTER AND CONSIDERING THAT THERE IS CURRENTLY AN EXTENSIVE ANTI-CHINESE CAMPAIGN GOING ON HERE, IT IS RATHER INTERESTING THAT AN ARTICLE SUCH AS ZALA'S SHOULD APPEAR ON THE SAME DAY IN THE SLIGHTLY MORE INDEPENDENT DAILY OF THE PATRIOTIC PEOPLES' FRONT.
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